

vallatæ) on the dorsum; about 2 inches in advance of the frenum; the muscles of the tongue and their action were minutely described; also those of the larynx and pharynx.

The brain, which weighed only 3 oz., presented a narrow, elongated, depressed form, the back part of the cerebral hemispheres resting against, but not overlapping, the cerebellum. The hemispheres showed a few symmetrical convolutions; they were united by a large corpus callosum: the olfactory lobes are very large and hollow. Many plexuses and other peculiarities of the vascular system were noticed.

This memoir will appear, illustrated with numerous figures, in the Transactions of the Society.

DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW TANAGERS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM. BY PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A.

1. *CHLOROSPINGUS MELANOTIS*, Sclater. *C. supra nigro-plumbeus, dorso imo brunnescentiore: alis caudaque brunnescentibus, illis penitus nigricantibus: loris et capitis lateribus cum regione auriculari nigris: subtus pallide ochraceo-rufus, mento summo nigricante; ventre medio dilutiore: rostro nigro: pedibus pallidis.*

Long. tota 5.25 poll., alæ 2.5, caudæ 2.25.

Hab. in Nova Grenada. Mus. Brit.

Obs. Species rostro et forma *Chlorospingo atropileo* similis, sed ab hoc et aliis hujus generis colore corporis inferi *ochraceo-rufo* facile distinguenda.

This little species, of which there are two examples in the National Collection, both apparently Bogota skins, differs from all its congeners in the colouring of the lower surface of the body, which is of a pale reddish buff, growing much whiter in the middle of the belly. Above the plumage is lead-coloured, with a greenish tinge superinduced towards the lower part of the back. The wings and tail are brown, with slight greenish edgings; the ear-coverts and whole side of the face are black. In the second specimen, apparently not so mature, there is a light-coloured spot on the front, just above the nostrils. The bill of this species agrees with that of *Chlorospingus atropileus*, (Laf.), in size, but is rather straighter in form, as in *C. verticalis*, (Laf.).

2. *TACHYPHONUS XANTHOPYGIUS*, Sclater. *T. nigro-cinereus, subtus dilution: axillis et tectricibus subalaribus albis: dorso postico citreo-flavo: rostro et pedibus nigris.*

Long. tota 5.8, alæ 3.1, caudæ 2.5.

Hab. in Nov. Grenada. Mus. Brit.

This bird seems intermediate between *Tachyphonus* and *Pyranga*, and might be placed in either of these groups. The white axillary feathers point to the former genus, the yellow rump to the latter. The bill, however, is more compressed than is usual in *Pyranga*, and agrees nearly with that of *Tachyphonus coronatus*, (Vieill.). The upper

plumage has a mottled appearance, caused by the feathers being centrally black and broadly edged with cinereous. In the middle of the back is a perceptibly greenish gloss. The only examples I have seen of this as of the former species are in the British Museum, where Mr. G. R. Gray's uniform kindness affords me every opportunity of studying the collection under his care.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Bohemian Forests and Peat-bogs. By Dr. HOCHSTETTER*.

THE primitive forests on Prince Schwarzenberg's domain, viz. at Krumau, Winterberg, and Stubenbach, may at a considerable distance be easily distinguished from the cultivated and regularly cut forests by their irregular and angular outlines; whilst the cupola-shaped summits of the firs rise considerably above the pyramidal pine-tops. Seen from an elevation, the difference between the primitive forest, with its withered tops and somewhat scattered trees, and the compact and verdant cultivated forest, is still more striking.

In some localities in the interior of the forests, the trees stand in straight lines of 150 to 200 feet [= 155·55 to 207·4 English feet] in length, as if planted so. Wherever the seeds do not find in the deep vegetable soil a site favourable for germination, their growth is exclusively confined to the roots and prostrate stems in a state of decomposition. Long after these stems have completely rotted away, their original length and situation are visible from the rectilinear arrangement of the younger trees, growing in the mouldering substance of the decayed veterans. This growth of the young plant on the decaying roots and stems serves also to explain the frequent occurrence of trees supported above the ground by means of exposed columnar roots, and, as it is termed, "standing on stilts."

The age of the pines and the firs in the primitive forests reaches as much as 300 to 500 years; the pines grow occasionally to 200 feet in height, and contain 1900 cubic feet [= 2118·5 English cubic feet] of wood in their stem alone. One of the finest of the firs, 30 feet [= 31·11 English feet] in circumference at a man's height, stood in the Brandelwald, near Unter-Mulldau; it was lately blown down, and it is estimated to contain 30 klafters [= 3012·03 English cubic feet] of fire-wood. Besides pines and firs, the forests in question contain beeches, maples, elms, birches, willows, and some, but very few, yew trees.

At present the extent of Prince Schwarzenberg's primitive forests is estimated at 30,000 Austrian acres [= 42,560 English acres]; and the quantity of wood in them at 6½ millions of klafters [= 652,606,500 English cubic feet]. A large portion of the wood from these forests is consumed in the neighbourhood for the use of the glass-furnaces,

* From the Proceedings of the Imperial Geological Institute of Vienna, Jan. 23, 1855. Translated and communicated by Count Marschall.